CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1995 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PHILIPPINES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF A STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, HIS EXCELLENCY FIDEL V. RAMOS, CONCERNING THE RECENT CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST

I have the honour to communicate to you the attached statement of H.E. Fidel V. Ramos, President of the Philippines, concerning the recent Chinese nuclear test.

I would be grateful if the above-mentioned statement could be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): LILIA R. BAUTISTA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

STATEMENT OF H.E. PRESIDENT FIDEL V. RAMOS OF THE PHILIPPINES
ON CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST
18 August 1995

The Philippines strongly deplores the test of a nuclear device which China conducted yesterday.

The test was the second that China had conducted since the Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in April this year. It manifestly violated the understanding that had prevailed at the NPT Review Conference that all nuclear-weapons States would exercise utmost restraint with respect to nuclear testing pending the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty in 1996.

China's decision to continue testing flies in the face of the statement by the ASEAN regional forum earlier this month, which called on nuclear-weapons States to bring an immediate end to nuclear testing.

The Philippines urges China, as well as France, to abandon plans for further nuclear tests, which have raised serious concerns about the sincerity of the nuclear-weapons States, and deter disarmament initiatives, including the conclusion of a test-ban treaty.

The Philippines has consistently taken an active stand on issues relating to nuclear testing. Following China's previous test and the announcement by France of its plans to resume tests in the South Pacific, we have in our capacity as Chairman of the Group of 77, initiated resolutions in multilateral fora, including the United Nations General Assembly and the International Atomic Energy Agency, calling for an end to nuclear tests and for strict adherence to understandings reached in the Review Conference. We have also taken an active role in pushing for the establishment of a South-East Asia nuclear-weapons-free zone.